

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2001 LB 543

the amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The amendment is not adopted. The call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote just taken.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, to show you how things go when we're talking about teachers and educators, and you all think they're so great, on the second sheet of this handout I gave you, you will see four people; three of them looking into the camera. One is a black woman, Brenda Council. She was a person placed on a group, a task force, gotten together by the school system, to see how they were going to deal with bussing, integration, and other matters. Well, this group, which was lauded for being from diverse backgrounds, capable people highly respected in the community, came up with the recommendation that would have included bussing. So Mackiel, feeling the pulse of the racist drives in Omaha, knew that the only thing that he could go for was to do away with bussing. So he rejected the work that this task force had done. He rejected it. And his mantra became "resegregate the schools". Yes, Mackiel is a segregationist, a neo-segregationist, except that he is very open with it. They talked, when they were trying to get this done, about all of the great things that would be done when the black children were resegregated. You'll see where I pointed out that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that whenever schools are separate, they are inherently unequal. There is no equal but separate, or separate but equal in America. Do you know why there cannot be that? Because white people are always in charge, always calling the shots, always taking care of their own. And if you drive through Omaha, and just look at the schools, you will see how white people making the decisions have taken care of white people. You will see in one of the handouts I'll give you, if it's not in here, an old school that was going to be reopened to help with the resegregation program. But just before that, an